



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL  
INSPECTIONS  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

**Wednesday, July 1, 2015**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-3248)

**Attachments:**    [AUDIO](#)

Present:            Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Susan Burton, Commissioner Percy Duran III, Commissioner Keren M. Goldberg, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

Excused:           Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Staff present: Bolaji Famuyiwa and Jenny Kimbell. (15-3250)

Call to Order. (15-3111)

**Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.**

**Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER**

1. Approval of the June 24, 2015 Minutes. (15-3112)

**On motion of Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and unanimously carried, this item was approved.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

2. Chairperson's Report on various items. (15-3113)

**Chairperson Montaña expressed her gratitude to Staff for facilitating the 2015 Scholarship Breakfast Presentation Program held on June 30, 2015. She also reminded staff to draft a letter of gratitude to Mayor Michael D. Antonovich for providing breakfast for the program.**

**Chairperson Montaña also shared the following Newspaper Article with the Commission:**

### **Daily Breeze:**

- **End Solitary Confinement in Juvenile Halls (June 25, 2015)**
- **Why L.A. County needs a Conviction Review Unit (June 28, 2015)**
- **Deal Near in Nursing Facility Probes (June 29, 2015)**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Treasurer's Report. (15-3114)

**Commissioner Andrews reported that the balance of the Commissioner's Charitable Fund is \$318.90.**

4. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (15-3115)

**Staff reported that the Chief Executive Office (CEO) will be preparing a Board Letter in response to the 2014-15 Civil Grand Jury Report, which includes the Sybil Brand Commission findings. Staff also shared with the Commission that the deadline to submit a response to the CEO is July 17, 2015.**

5. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on July 1, 2015. (15-3117)

**There was no report presented.**

6. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from June 25, 2015 to June 30, 2015. (15-3118)

**During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:**

**Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:**

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**Lancaster Sheriff Station (Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster, CA) on June 29, 2015.**

**Commissioners Duran and Arais-Bhatia visited:  
Industry Sheriff Station (Hudson Ave., Industry, CA) on June 30, 2015.**

**Vice Chairperson Bigby visited:**

- **Murrell's Farm Boys Home (Homestead Ave., Lancaster, CA) on June 25, 2015.**
- **Murrell's Farm Boys Home (Pillsbury Street., Lancaster, CA) on June 25, 2015.**

**During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were visited but not inspected:**

**Commissioners Grills and Burton visited:**

- **Central Civil West Courthouse (Commonwealth, Los Angeles, CA) on June 30, 2015 and reported that there is no lockup at this location.**
- **Counseling and Research Associate/Masada Home (152nd Street, Lawndale, CA) on June 29, 2015 and reported that this facility is closed.**

**Commissioner Arais-Bhatia visited:**

- **San Gabriel Children Center (Puente Street, Covina, CA) on June 26, 2015 and reported that the facility relocated to 952 E. Nearfield Street, Azusa, CA. 91702.**

### **III. DISCUSSIONS**

- 7. Presentation, discussion and appropriate action on the matter of teleconferencing technology in the jails and lockups. (15-3119)**

**Commissioner Zhen presented on and distributed a report titled "Screening out Family Time, the For Profit Video Visitation Industry in Prisons and Jails" as requested by the Commissioners at the June 23, 2015 meeting. Highlighting her research findings, she reported that there are 43 states in the United States that have experimented on the teleconferencing technology not including California. Although there are some advantages for using the technology, the disadvantages seem to be more compelling. Her research found that 74% of those that adopted the teleconferencing technology completely erased the face-to-face family visitations; the technology is not sophisticated enough for clarity; there is an issue of confidentiality when inmates are conversing with family**

members and also a concern for attorney client confidentiality. She further added that the technology is too costly for the inmates and their families and concluded that based on her research findings she will not recommend the technology for the County jails/lockups. Commissioner Grills volunteered to research other nonprofit agencies that provide the services at low or no cost.

After further discussion, Commissioner Zhen made a motion and seconded by Commissioner Bhatia and all in favor, the back portion of the SBC jail/lockup inspection form will be revised to include "fees assessed to inmates."

Additionally, Commissioner Grills recommended that the SBC special meeting to review all SBC inspection forms should be scheduled immediately following the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) audit inspection training scheduled for July. Also, staff was directed to invite a representative from the Probation Department (Probation) to come present on how they conduct their inspection of the camps and Juvenile halls prior to scheduling the SBC special meeting to review the forms.

8. Discussion and appropriate action on the Civil Grand Jury Report on SBC. (15-3127)

After discussion of the Civil Grand Jury Report of their review of SBC, Commissioners Grills and Burton informed the other Commissioners that they have the green access badge which allows them to conduct inspections without escort. They asserted that the non-escort inspections have allowed them to be more frequent, interact better and build a continuing presence and relationships in the jails/lockups. Commissioner Burton directed staff to contact the Sheriff's Department to inquire how the other Commissioners can receive the "no escort" green badge.

Commissioner Goldberg recommended that it will be helpful to the Commission to become more technology savvy in order to facilitate a live working document that outlines specifically when and who inspected the jails/lockups and what sections were inspected.

Commissioner Zhen also recommended that the Commission take the following steps:

Each Commissioner should be assigned to visit one jail once a month; Invite ACLU to become a part of the SBC monthly business meetings so they can report of their jail monitoring and start a collaborative relationship with the Commission; and all Commissioners should be assigned to

**inspect a part of the Men's Central Jail and all the larger jails.**

**Commissioner Grills made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Goldberg and all in favor to direct staff to contact the Sheriff Department to request that they provide a layout of the Men's Central Jail so that the Chairperson can triage the Commissioners in teams to visit MCJ starting in July.**

**Commissioner Grills also made a motion, seconded by Commission Bhatia, all in favor to adopt Commissioner Zhen's recommendations and also direct staff to invite a representative from ACLU to come to one of the SBC regular meetings in addition to Commissioner Zhen's recommendations to invite them to become a part of the standing SBC monthly business meetings.**

**Commissioner Bhatia made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Grills and all in favor that before preparing a report to be submitted to the County Chief Executive Office, in response to the Civil Grand Jury report, the Commissioners should prepare and circulate bulleted points of their recommendations and discrepancies to each other and to staff for compilation for review and discussion at next week's meeting.**

- 9.** Discussion and appropriate action on the issue of inadequate staffing at the women's section of the Twin Towers. (15-3128)

**After discussion, the Commission decided to arrange more visits to the facility to gain additional information before taking any action.**

- 10.** Discussion and appropriate action regarding a monthly special meeting with the Department of Children and Family Services and Probation Department to address issues specific to both departments. (15-3129)

**Following a concern and discussion that there is never enough time to address the DCFS and Probation specific issues during the monthly business meetings, Commissioner JoHanna Arias Bhatia made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cheryl Grills and all in favor, to have a special meeting in August 2015 with the DCFS and Probation to address issues specific to both departments and then based on the outcome, determine how often the special meeting with both departments should occur.**

- 11.** Discussion and appropriate action on the issue of the Sheriff's Department Disciplinary Diet. (15-3130)

**After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Keren Goldberg, seconded by Commissioner JoHanna Arias Bhatia and unanimously carried the Commission decided to send a report to the Board of Supervisors to express the Commission's concern as it relates to using food (disciplinary diet) as a disciplinary measure at the Jails/Lockups. Commissioners Arias Bhatia and Goldberg volunteered to draft the language of the letter.**

- 12. Discussion and appropriate action on the SBC Annual Report. (15-3131)**

**On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby and unanimously carried the Commission approved the 2013-2014 Annual report.**

**Attachments:**    [2013-2014 Annual Report](#)

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **Matters Not Posted**

- 13. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-3120)**

**There were no matters presented for a future agenda.**

##### **Public Comment**

- 14. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-3121)**

**There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.**

##### **Adjournment**

- 15. Adjournment for the meeting of July 1, 2015. (15-3123)**

**There being no further business, Chairperson Montañó adjourned the meeting of July 1, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.**